FCHS HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AMERICAN IDENTITY – FROM THE 18TH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT**

No one who inhabited the part of North America which we call The United States of America today was an “American” the way we use the term today until the Revolutionary War began in the 1770s. Until then, North America was a multinational, multicultural, and astoundingly diverse place – and changing at a startling place from year to year.

So, what influences made “Americans” a unique and distinct nationality?

In 1756, George Washington marched off into the Ohio River Valley as a member of the English military, to deliver notice to the French that they must surrender their forts and leave the region. He would then fight, as a member of the English military, against the French and Indians during the Seven Years War, from 1756 – 1763.

Twenty years later, George Washington marched off to Boston, Massachusetts, as the leader of the Continental Army, to begin a siege of that city in order to drive the English out. He spent the next five years, from 1776 – 1781, fighting as an American General – with the French as his allies – against the British. And eventually, he helped the United States to win its independence. Accepting surrender terms from the British general Cornwallis at Yorktown, Washington had secured liberty for his people.

***Who were these people? What was “American Identity” at this moment?***

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Consider these twelve influences on American Identity. Which do you believe was most important to creating American Identity ***today***? In groups of 6 to 8 students, identify the eight (8) most important cultural groups which shaped American Identity, and rank them in order of significance. Next, choose two (2) groups which would merit “honorable mention.” Finally, each group will be required to leave four (4) cultural groups off of their list. Write out a one sentence explanation (for a total of twelve (14) sentences cumulatively) as to why your group has arranged each culture group in its place, respectively.

**Cultural Influences on American Identity**

The Puritans of New England Religious Dissenters

The French Colonists Spanish Colonists

Dutch Colonists Enslaved Africans

Quakers of Pennsylvania Native Americans

Catholics Immigrants The Portuguese

“The Great Awakening” Preachers “Enlightenment” Rationalists

Russian Colonists Islamic African Kingdoms

On this sheet, provide your final answers. Write out on your own paper your one sentence explanations as to why you have arranged these groups in the order that you have collectively. Attach your written explanations for how these cultural groups have been arranged to this sheet.

**THE EIGHT (8) MOST IMPORTANT CULTURE INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN IDENTITY, ACCORDING TO THE GROUP:**

8.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TWO (2) CHOICES FOR HONORABLE MENTION:**

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOUR (4) LEAST IMPORTANT CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN IDENTITY:**

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_